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California State Senate

SENATOR LELAND Y. YEE, PH.D.

EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

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October 19, 2012

John Fenoglio, Scout Executive
Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America
800 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Mr. Fenoglio:

I am writing regarding Ryan Andresen in support of his efforts to receive the title of Eagle Scout, which he has earned with honor and dedication.

In my time as an elected official, I have attended many Eagle Scout ceremonies, and insist that our office prepare appropriate honors whenever necessary. While I myself was never a Scout, I have come to respect your organization for its work in molding young men to productive members of society who give back to their communities. The Eagles I have met have exemplified the values of your organization, and I feel privileged to have them as constituents.

It is with this in mind that I ask that Ryan Andresen receive the honor that he has worked so hard for. To deny him the title of Eagle Scout denigrates his efforts, and cheapens the title for his fellow Eagles. To hold him to a different standard, to say he is unworthy of this honor because of his sexual orientation is as offensive and un-American as it would be to do so because of the color of his skin. I worry that if the Boy Scouts of America continues these policies, this organization will be left behind as a relic of the past and future generations will lose an opportunity to learn, grow, and become responsible and conscientious citizens.

I have written to President Perry regarding this matter, and have asked him to end the policy of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the Boy Scouts of America. Even if he fails to do so, I ask that you do the right thing and bestow the title of Eagle Scout on Mr. Andresen, as he has earned. You have an opportunity here to prove that the Boy Scouts of America is open to all who wish to be a part of its grand traditions. Please do not throw it away.

Sincerely,